

Book Reviews

Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation: Genetic, Embryologic, and Clinical Aspects. By D. W. SMITH. Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics, vol. 7. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1970. Pp. 368. \$16.00.

This is a contribution to both the nosology and the embryopathogenesis of congenital malformations. Dysmorphogenesis, the word which Smith uses, is original with him as far as I know. The first part of the book presents pedigrees of causes for a group of selected dysmorphogenetic syndromes. The major part of the book is concerned with the clinical delineation of distinctive malformations, most of them Mendelian. He divides malformations into 20 categories according to the salient feature, proposing this first step as a useful approach to their diagnosis. (He also has the inevitable class of miscellaneous syndromes.) The classes include: unusually small stature with associated defects (e.g., Cornelia de Lange syndrome); facial defects as predominant features (e.g., Treacher Collins syndrome); hamartomatosis (e.g., tuberous sclerosis); osteochondrodysplasias (e.g., achondroplasia); and others. At least 135 separate entities are discussed with a description of phenotype, natural history, genetics, and other features on the left-hand page and clinical pictures on the facing page. Doubtless the pictures will be a most valuable feature of this book. They put it in a different class, for example, from Rubin's *Handbook of Congenital Malformations* and, of course, from my *Mendelian Inheritance in Man*, which has a somewhat different objective.

Another section of the book reviews individual anomalies, listing particular syndromes where they are either frequent or occasional. Another section surveys normal and abnormal morphogenesis in relation to specific malformations, such as those of the kidney and pituitary. Also provided is a discussion of genetic counseling and the significance of minor anomalies, as well as charts for normal height, weight, head circumference, prenatal measurements, and intercanthal and interpupillary distances.

The field of congenital malformations is certainly not glutted with books. Ballantyne's book, published at the turn of the century, is almost the only one in English I can think of that covers the same territory and gives pictures. This book by Smith should be in its way as useful as his *Compendium of Short Stature*, which was published as a supplement to the *Journal of Pediatrics* (1964) and which was organized in a manner very similar to the main part of this book.

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Problems in Human Biology. A Study of Brazilian Populations. By F. M. SALZANO and N. FREIRE-MAIA. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1970. Pp. 200. \$8.95.

During the last decade there has been a surge of interest in the combination of genetic, demographic, and anthropological approaches to human biology. This is the first general account of such studies. As such, it is an important book, as Charles Wagley states in the foreword. What is more, it is an exciting book. The authors write with obvious pride and